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FOREWORD

This document contains the National Intelligence Topics (NITs) of Current Interest that were developed at my request from recommendations made by senior members of the US foreign policy and defense communities, and concurred in by the Senior Interagency Group (Intelligence) as guidance for use by the intelligence agencies of the US Government. These topics serve as a forum for policymakers to inform intelligence collectors and producers of critical needs for information and analysis and are intended to keep the intelligence effort focused on those countries and issues of greatest concern to the policymakers over the next nine to 12 months. The Topics of Current Interest, in addition to being narrowly focused and of immediate policy concern, generally address only those substantive issues for which added emphasis is needed in the short term. These topics and the Community's performance with respect to them will be updated and reviewed by the SIG(I) on a quarterly basis.

General guidance on issues that senior policymakers believe will be of greatest importance to US interests over the longer term—during the next five years—will no longer be reflected as in past years in the NITs of Continuing Interest, which are discontinued. Instead, such guidance will now be developed by the SIG(I) during quarterly review of topical categories and priorities contained in the attachment—"US Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities"—to DCID 1/2. The SIG(I) guidance will alert production managers to substantive issues for which added or new emphasis is needed in the longer term and will provide guidance for changes in DCID 1/2 priorities.

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST

As of 1 September 1982

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SIG(I) MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Required Actions</u>
September-October 1982	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) DCI issues Current NITs and directive on Community compliance with new process and associated actions.(2) IPC and ICS work together to develop procedures to implement new process.(3) IPC provides specific and detailed guidance to production elements on expected format, content, and timeliness of inputs to IPC Staff.(4) ICS summarizes DCID 1/2 priorities matrix to facilitate review by SIG(I) members.
Mid-to-late November 1982	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) IPC prepares a list of suggested deletions and/or additions to Current NITs and a list of responsive CIA, DIA, INR and NIC publications for dissemination to SIG(I) members.(2) ICS submits to SIG(I) members for their review:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) the current DCID 1/2 priorities matrix(b) a summary of the matrix to facilitate their review, and(c) a list of prioritii changes made during the last three months (these will also be circled in the priorities matrix)
December 1982*	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) SIG(I) holds quarterly meeting (1st week) to review and act on IPC and ICS inputs.(2) SIG(I) recommends changes in Current NITs and DCID 1/2 priorities matrix to DDCI.

*Signifies date for quarterly meetings of the SIG(I)

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(3) IPC amends current NITs and disseminates updated listing to Community elements by mid-month.

(4) ICS amends DCID 1/2 priorities matrix as approved by DCI and notifies Community of changes.

Mid-to-late February 1983

(Same ICS and IPC actions as indicated in late November except IPC will also prepare statements identifying significant gaps in US knowledge on subjects highlighted in Current NITs and DCID 1/2.)

March 1983*

(Same actions as indicated for December 1)

Mid-to-late May 1983

(Same ICS and IPC actions as indicated for late November except ICS will also conduct its annual revision (exclusive focus on lowering priorities of DCID 1/2 and submit to SIG(I) members.)

June 1983*

(1) SIG(I) will review and act on results of ICS annual priority revision in addition to its review of the quarterly IPC and ICS inputs.

(2) IPC and ICS implement changes recommended by SIG(I) as approved by DCI.

Mid-to-late August 1983

(Same actions as indicated for February 1983)

September 1983*

(Same actions as indicated for June 1983)

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SIG(I)/INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

The establishment of a SIG(I) to meet quarterly to discuss current and longer term intelligence priorities as well as intelligence support for the policy process modifies the current NIT Process and its relationship to DCID 1/2. The new procedures and the staff support required to implement the modified NIT Process are outlined below:

1. SIG(I) Actions

- a. Review each quarter the IPC listing of suggested deletions and/or additions to the current NITs; update the NITs as appropriate, and provide recommended changes to DDCI for inclusion in an updated NITs publications.
- b. Review quarterly the current DCID 1/2 priorities matrix and recommend changes with accompanying description of rationale. (Proposed priority changes would be provided to DCID 1/2 Committee for action and the narrative description of rationale for priority changes forwarded to the IPC for compilation and translation into longer-term guidance for production managers.)
- c. Discuss and assess, in general, intelligence support for the policy process, and in particular, Community performance with respect to the Current NITs.

2. Staff Support for SIG(I) Meetings**a. IPC Responsibilities**

- (1) Prepare a list of suggested deletions and/or additions to the existing Current NITs and disseminate to SIG(I) members two weeks prior to each quarterly meeting.
- (2) Compile and disseminate (two weeks in advance of quarterly meeting) to SIG(I) members a list of appropriate CIA, DIA, INR, and NIC publications with each publication keyed to the Current NIT and/or DCID 1/2 topic.
- (3) Prepare, after each quarterly meeting, a listing of SIG(I) changes to the Current NITs for dissemination to IC components.
- (4) Prepare every six months for SIG(I) review a statement identifying significant gaps in US knowledge, referring as appropriate to current NITs and DCID 1/2 requirements subcategories. (Statements would also be disseminated to intelligence collectors and producers.)
- (5) Monitor policymakers' statements justifying changes in DCID 1/2 topics and priorities and translate them, on an annual basis, into meaningful long-term guidance for producers.

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b. Intelligence Community Staff (DCID 1/2 Committee) Responsibilities

- (1) Provide SIG(I) members two weeks prior to each quarterly meeting copies of the latest version of the DCID 1/2 priorities matrix annotated to show priority revisions made during the period since the last quarterly meeting
- (2) Amend DCID 1/2 Attachment to reflect SIG(I) recommended changes in priorities and/or topics as approved by the DCI and disseminate changes to Intelligence Community.
- (3) Identify in May of each year those priorities that the Community believes should be lowered and prepare a list of proposed priority changes for dissemination to SIG(I) members two weeks prior to their quarterly meeting in June of each year.
- (4) Change DCID 1/2 attachment to reflect SIG(I) recommendations and DCI decisions proposals to lower priorities on DCID 1/2 topics.

3. Production Community (DIA, CIA, INR, and NIC) Inputs

- a. Prepare, three weeks prior to each quarterly SIG(I) meeting, a listing of intelligence publications (e.g., typescript memorandum, all formal monograph products, Interagency Intelligence Memorandum, SNIE's and NIE's) that are responsive to each Current NIT and DCID 1/2 subject (i.e., Requirements subcategories) and submit to IPC Staff in accordance with the guidance provided by that Staff.
- b. Prepare, twice (mid-February and mid-August) each year, a summary of significant information gaps for each Current NIT and DCID 1/2 requirements subcategory, and submit to IPC Staff in accordance with the guidance provided by that Staff.
- c. Monitor accuracy and currency of statements in geotopical requirements categories and priorities in the Attachment to DCID 1/2 and recommend to DCID 1/2 Committee as appropriate.

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